

## **Operation Rio Grande Timeline**

### **Operation Rio Grande**

An unprecedented partnership between state and local government coming together to restore public safety and order in the Rio Grande area.

July 25, 2017

#### **Concerns of public safety in the Rio Grande area hit all time high.**

Multiple homicides in a two-week window and ongoing concerns of the open drug market continue.

July 26, 2017

#### **Governor meeting with state and local officials**

State and local leaders met to announce immediate actions to restore public safety.

July 27, 2017

#### **Operation Rio Grande leadership established**

State leadership: Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, Speaker Greg Hughes, Sen. President Wayne Niederhauser

Local leadership: Mayor Ben McAdams (SL County) and Mayor Jackie Biskupski (SLC)

August 11, 2017

#### **Securing 300 new jail beds**

Working to secure 300 new jail beds was a lofty goal but made possible by determined leadership of Mayor Jackie Biskupski, state Corrections Executive Director Rollin Cook, and collaboration with Salt Lake County Jail and other county jails.

August 14, 2017

#### **Operation Rio Grande launched with three phases announced**

Phase 1 began August 14, 2017 with a focus on restoring public safety and order. Additional phases include treatment and providing employment opportunities.

#### **Phase 1 begins August 14 with intense law enforcement presence**

The purpose of Phase 1 consisted of four objectives: (1) Restoration of law and order; (2) Sustained, long-term law enforcement presence; (3) Getting dangerous felons off the street; (4) Disrupt narcotics trafficking.

September 1, 2017

#### **Rio Grande Street closed to vehicle traffic at 200 South**

Segment of Rio Grande Street closed to traffic; S.L. seeking input on 2-year closure

September 7, 2017

#### **Phase 2 begins adding first wave of treatment beds**

Additional 37 treatment beds were added to the system between Odyssey House, First Step House, and House of Hope.

### **First assessment day**

A team of social workers with Salt Lake County conducted the first assessment day in the Salt Lake County Jail. The assessments help determine treatment options to inmates arrested as a result of Operation Rio Grande.

September 12, 2017

### **Fence to create safe space goes up**

The focus turns to creating a safe space that allows access to services in a what is considered a "safe space."

September 13, 2017

### **New specialty drug court announced**

First group of individuals join the new specialty drug court, which opens the door for those arrested from Operation Rio Grande the chance to take a different path other than jail for recovery.

September 20, 2017

### **Special Session**

Two bills were passed by the Utah Legislature during the special session -- one to fund nearly \$5 million for operation costs and one to change a state law to allow Salt Lake City to close Rio Grande Street near 200 South and lease it to the state.

September 28, 2017

### **Encampment cleanups begin**

Salt Lake County begins encampment cleanups near Jordan River Parkway. The state supports the efforts with UDOT providing equipment and hauling waste away and Corrections provided inmate workers.

October 3, 2017

### **Delegation visit to Washington, D.C.**

Utah officials, including Governor Herbert and Speaker Hughes, went to D.C. last week to meet with HHS regarding our Medicaid waiver.

October 5, 2017

### **Second assessment day and new treatment beds**

Salt Lake County partners conduct second assessment day in Salt Lake County jail and 24 new treatment beds announced with Odyssey House.

October 6, 2017

### **Salt Lake City hosts Project Homeless Connect**

Hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness enjoyed a daylong, one-stop event that brought together 90 service providers to help those in need.

October 10, 2017

**Safe Space established with fencing, tables, tent**

Outreach efforts begin to educate individuals on the street about the Safe Space and coordinated services card.

October 18, 2017

**Two-month update on successes and next steps**

After two months of Phase 1 and 2 in place, government officials reviewed successes, challenges and activities in progress.

October 27, 2017

**Coordinated service cards being required for Safe Space**

The Safe Space opens with the coordinated service card required for access to the area and services inside.

November 1, 2017

**Medicaid waiver approved**

HHS approves Utah's Medicaid waiver opening the door for more than a hundred new treatments coming over the next several months.

November 2, 2018

**Law enforcement outreach efforts increase**

The Department of Public Safety continues to increase outreach efforts in working with individuals on the streets near and around Rio Grande Street.

**300 tons of waste cleaned up**

The combined efforts of Salt Lake County Health Department, the Department of Corrections and UDOT, more than 300 tons of garbage has been removed from encampment areas and taken to the dump.

November 9, 2017

**First community screening and assessment day**

Salt Lake County hosts first "community" screening and assessment day to provide treatment options to those out of custody.

**Phase 3, Dignity of Work plan announced**

The Dignity of Work phase will work to build individual plans to determine next steps with individuals that will help them become work ready and lead to employment.

November 11, 2017

**First community screening and assessment day**

Salt Lake County hosts first "community" screening and assessment day to provide treatment options to those out of custody.

November 14, 2018

**First Dignity of Work Job Fair**

More than 65 job seekers attended and met with eight different employers. Workforce Services' staff met with individuals and started scheduling appointments for individual plans.

November 27, 2017

**Dignity of Work daily workshops begin**

Workshops will help prepare individuals for employment with variety of trainings designed to help people become work ready.

December 1, 2017

More than 10 individuals residing at The Road Home paired up with Okland Construction to replace the wooden fence along 200 South and 500 West.

December 6, 2017

**Outreach for Hepatitis A outbreak**

Salt Lake County Health Department continues to educate and provide vaccinations to individuals in the area.

December 11, 2018

**Winter donation message**

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox with SLCPD and Salt Lake County Health Department asked the public to donate the better way by supporting the service providers.

December 21, 2017

**The Road Home Media-A-thon**

The Road Home serves individuals at the downtown shelter, Midvale family shelter, permanent supportive housing locations, and family hotel voucher program. The resources needed year-round is supported by the annual media-a-thon.

January 5, 2018

**DPS introduces Mike and Ike**

The Mike and Ike K-9 team prepares to start work in Rio Grande neighborhoods

January 11, 2018

**112 new beds for residential treatment**

Odyssey House opens two new facilities adding much needed capacity for treatment.

**Homeless experts discuss Operation Rio Grande**

"You're doing the right thing" stated homeless and addiction experts at pre-legislative session discussion.

**Third community assessment day**

With added treatment capacity comes the need for more assessments. Salt Lake County led the effort at the Salt Lake County Jail.

January 15, 2018

**Social workers assisting law enforcement**

DPS hires a social worker through Valley Behavioral Health to assist law enforcement with outreach to homeless individuals in the Rio Grande area.

January 29, 2018

**New sober living facilities**

Salt Lake County announces sober living vouchers pilot program to provide safe and affordable housing to individuals transitioning from residential treatment to the community.

February 1, 2018

**Faces of Operation Rio Grande**

These three individuals were arrested back in August 2017 as part of Operation Rio Grande. They went through the drug court program and entered treatment. All three are progressing and working towards employment and housing. They visited the State Capitol wearing suits donated by legislators.

February 5, 2018

**Web tools go live on [OperationRioGrande.Utah.Gov](http://OperationRioGrande.Utah.Gov)**

Website will display outcomes and monthly data measurements to help demonstrate the work taking place with each phase. In addition, a visual timeline was added to highlight key milestones of the operation.